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Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

“One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn’t pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.” ~ Lucille Ball

Friday, September 5, 2008

Congratulations to Indiana State Prison for passing a recent ACA Audit. The prison received a 100% score on the mandatory folders and 98.8% on non-mandatory standards.

Vocational auto body classes from Pendleton Correctional Facility and Plainfield Correctional Facility recently participated in the Department’s Third Annual Truck Restoration Contest, which took place between the Indiana Government Center Buildings in downtown Indianapolis. The restored vehicle from Pendleton won the Commissioner’s award, while the restored vehicle from Plainfield won the People’s Choice award. Congratulations to both facilities!

Miami Correctional Facility recently reinstituted its Employee of the Month program, rewarding three employees each month for their outstanding contribution to the facility. The August recipients were Ruth Massey for Correctional Officer of the month, Ann Hubbard for Employee of the Month (non-custody), and Jim Hoover for Supervisor of the Month. The June recipients were Robin Burton, Timothy Grinslade, and Amy Clark. The July recipients were David Waggoner, Jesse Fivecoate, and Jim Dibble.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility and the Town of Plainfield have been selected to receive an intergovernmental cooperation award by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) for their partnership efforts to rebuild the sidewalks of the Town of Plainfield and for the ongoing Youth Athletic Complex project.

Pendleton Correctional Facility, in conjunction with Vincennes University, recently implemented a program which will provide offenders the opportunity to receive college credit for completion of the facility’s Graphic Communication Program.

The Indiana Women’s Prison hosted the Streams in the Desert “God’s Transformation Process” 3-day seminar for the offender population during the Labor Day weekend. 336 offenders attended the seminar which focused on self-confidence and positive change for strong women in tough times. Keynote speaker Pastor Jolinda Wade opened the seminar with a message of purpose.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility is working with “Love on a Leash” to provide a mentoring experience for special needs offenders using dogs. The volunteers have divided their meetings into 4 basic sessions to discuss animal behavior and care.

The Art Adams “Rockabilly” Band recently entertained offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. The band conducted two performances for offenders housed inside the maximum security facility and then provided a third concert for offenders housed in the minimum security housing unit located outside the walls of the facility.

Thirty-nine employees from Westville Correctional Facility with 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of state service were honored at a special recognition luncheon prepared and served by the Culinary Arts class. Superintendent William Wilson gave the keynote address, and each honoree received a certificate and a pin.

Correctional Industrial Facility recognized National Recovery Month by putting up a display this week near the front of the facility for staff and visitors to become more familiar with the Therapeutic Community.

Local media recently highlighted Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility for a graduation ceremony that was held to honor residents who completed a collaborative class between PREF and the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS). In another story, local media featured the success of the Restorative Justice program, which allows residents to begin to repair the harm that their crime and incarceration has caused to those that they have offended.

WRTV reporter Julie Pursley visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week to interview PEN Products staff and offenders in connection with the donation of green beans to the Gleaner’s Food Bank in Indianapolis.

Correctional Industrial Facility took in 8 Mixed Mutts from the nearby shelter this week. The name of the program is F+I+D=O which stands for Faith+Inmate+Dogs=Opportunity. After 2 months of training, the dogs will be available for adoption.

Calamari Productions producer Karen Grau arrived at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility this week to film a juvenile female student who will be the subject of an upcoming documentary about juvenile females in the correctional system.

The Indiana Department of Correction Softball Team comprised of Central Office and PD3 staff won 18-10 against the Indiana Senate in the State Government Softball League at Chuck Kleins Softball Complex. They play next for a playoff berth.